

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04939 231229Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----231233Z 054256 /22

O 231136Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3060
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4939

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, USUN, EG, XF
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SC MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 64190

SUMMARY: I WAS NOT ABLE PERSUADE FAHMY TO POSTPONE
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT,
BUT HE AGREED THAT LIMITED CONSENSUS SHOULD ENSURE.
FAHMY WANTS DATE FOR FIRST MEETING AGREED UPON TODAY
AND HE ENVISAGES THAT TWO MEETINGS WILL BE REQUIRED
TO ARRIVE AT CONSENSUS. END SUMMARY

1. I WENT OVER WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING VERY
CAREFULLY TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL AND GAVE
HIM IN WRITING THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A CONSENSUS
STATEMENT WE COULD SUPPORT. FAHMY WAS IN AGGRESSIVE
MOOD AND AT FIRST SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT PRE-
CONDITIONS FOR SC MEETING WHICH HE ASSERTED WOULD HAVE
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TO BE CALLED WITHIN TWENTY FOUR HOURS IF HE SO INSTRUCTED
AMBASSADOR MEGUID. FAHMY ALSO CLAIMED THAT WE
WERE SEEKING POSTPONEMENT OF SC MEETING AT ISRAELI
BIDDING. I REFUTED THIS LAST SUGGESTION
AND SAID WE WERE SIMPLY TRYING COOPERATE WITH EGYPT
IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO PREVENT
A SITUATION WHICH COLD CAST A SHADOW OVER PRESIDENT

SADAT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT ME PEACE SETTLEMENT.

2. FAHMY THEN SAID THAT EGYPT DID NOT WANT ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE BUT FELT THAT SC CONSIDERATION OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT WAS NECESSARY AND COULD BE HELPFUL TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S ME PEACE EFFORTS. HE AGREED THAT HE COULD NOT CONTROL THE STATEMENTS OF OTHER NATIONS IN THE SC, BUT INSISTED THAT EGYPT WOULD TAKE MODERATE STANCE. WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT CONSENSUS HE ENVISAGED EMERGING, EHE REPLIED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE SECGEN'S REPORT AND REQUEST THAT HE CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS AND THAT IT SHOULD EMHPHASZIE IMPORTANCE OF RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE AT EARLY DATE. I RESPONDED THAT THIS LIMITED CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD IN MIND AND ASKED HIM TO READ THE THREE POINTS I HAD GIVEN HIM, WHICH HE GRUDGINGLY DID AND THEN NODDED AGREEMENT.

3. FAHMY WENT ON THAT AMBASSADOR MEGUID HAD LENGTH THEIR AND MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT A CONSENSESS BUT SIAD THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITION. I REPEATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO RESIST ANY EFFORTS GO BEYOND THREE POINTS I HAD GIVEN HIM.

4. WITH REGARD TO PROCEDURE FAHMYS AID THAT A DATE FOR THE FIRST SC MEETING ON SYG'S REPORT SHOULD BE SET TODAY.
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FIRST MEETING WOULD INCLUDE REMARKS BY SYG FOLLOWED BY AMBASSADOR MEGUID WHO WOULD HAVE REQUESTED THE MEETING. THEN OTHERS INCLUDING SYRIA AND HE ASSUMED ISRAEL WOULD SPEAK (HE DID NOT MENTION PLO). FIRST MEETING WOULD THEN ADJOURN AND A CONSENSUS STATEMENT WOULD BE WORKED OUT, WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED AT SECOND MEETING AND FORMALLY AGREED UPON.

FAHMY REPEATED THAT NO RESOLUTION WOULD BE NEEDED AND THAT DEBATE WOULD NOT BE ACRIMONIOUS. I EMPHASIZED OUR CONCERN THAT SC DELIBERATIONS WERE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND THAT WE WISHED TO AVOID HAVING THINGS SAID WHICH WOULD HURT THE PEACE PROCESS. FAHMY REMAINED ADAMANT THAT SC MUST TAKE UP SYG'S REPORT AND THAT MEETING COULD NOT BE POSTPONED. WE WOULD SEE IN THE END THAT SC CONSIDERATION WOULD BE HELPFUL TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S EFFORTS.

5. COMMENT: I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT FAHMY'S

CONFIDENCE OF HELPFUL RESULTS FROM SC DELIBERATIONS
IS WELL-FOUNDED, BUT HE WOULD NOT BUDGE FROM HIS
POSITION. HE WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT
REQUIREMENT THAT SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MUST RESPOND
IMMEDIATELY TO ANY UN MEMBER'S REQUEST FOR SC MEETING.
MATTHEWS

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